

Page 12, line 30: replace "one", second occurrence with --on--

Page 19, line 23: correct "a" to read --an--.

Page 25, line 7: correct "reconstructed" to read "reconstruct".

Page 25, line 29: replace the first "\_\_\_\_" with --March 28--.

Page 25, line 29: replace the second "\_\_\_\_" with --08/383,752--.

In The Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8, and add newly presented claims 9-13, all as shown below in the full set of all pending claims presented for the Examiner's convenience.

CLAIMS

- 1 1. (once amended) A method for providing simultaneous  
2 access to a common file on a computer network comprising at  
3 least one computer, said method including the steps of:
- 4 partitioning a first memory on said at least one computer  
5 to provide a first user with a first [partition] partition to  
6 store updates to files corresponding to said first user, said  
7 first memory at least partially inaccessible to a second user;
- 8 partitioning a second memory on said at least one computer  
9 to provide said second user with a second [partition] partition  
10 to store updates to files corresponding to said second user,

11 said second memory at least partially inaccessible to said first  
12 user;

13 partitioning a third memory on said at least one computer  
14 to store selected updates from said first and second user  
15 partitions to create a first common partition such that said  
16 first and second users have associated partition chains  
17 comprising said first and second partitions, respectively, and  
18 said common partition;

19 storing first user update data in said first partition  
20 while maintaining common data unchanged, said first user update  
21 ~~date~~<sup>data</sup> corresponding to changes to said common data file by said  
22 first user;

23 storing second user update data in said second partition  
24 while maintaining common data unchanged, said second user update  
25 ~~date~~<sup>data</sup> corresponding to changes to said common data file by said  
26 second user;

27 selectively storing desired updates from said first and  
28 second [user] partitions in said first common partition; and

29 providing each of said first and second users access to  
30 said first common partition.

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1 2. (once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said  
2 first[, ] and second [and third memories] partitions and said  
3 first common partition reside on different computers.

N.E. 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said first common  
2 partition comprises a library partition.

1 4. (once amended) The method of claim 1 [3] further  
2 comprising the steps of: [providing information in said library  
3 partition to an archival partition.]

B<sup>2</sup> 4 defining a second common partition accessible to said first  
5 and said second users; and

6 linking said second common partition to said first and  
7 second user partition chains.

N.E. 1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein said second common  
2 partition comprises an archive partition.

1 6. (once amended) The method of claim 1 further  
2 comprising the steps of:

B<sup>3</sup> 3 defining[creating] a new partition based upon a subset of  
4 said first partition; and

5 linking [providing] said new partition to [said second  
6 memory such that said new partition becomes part of] said second  
7 user's partition chain.

N.E. 1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said new partition  
2 includes an update or an annotation to a CD-ROM.

1 <sup>10</sup> 8. (once amended) A method for providing simultaneous  
2 access to a common file on a computer network, said network  
3 including at least two local computers and at least one remote  
4 computer coupled to each of said at least two local computers,  
5 said method including the steps of:

6 partitioning memories on said local computers into journal  
7 partitions [that];

c 8 ~~store~~<sup>storing</sup> ~~[s]ing~~ updates to said file, while maintaining common  
9 data unchanged, in user update files on respective said journal  
10 partitions;

11 partitioning memories on said local computers into local  
12 library partitions [that];

c B4 13 ~~store~~<sup>storing</sup> ~~[s]ing~~ information from respective user update files  
14 [ones] of said journal [files] partitions while maintaining  
15 common data unchanged;

16 updating at least one of said user update [journal] files  
17 while its associated computer is disconnected from said remote  
18 computer;

19 transmitting said updates from said associated computer to  
20 said remote computer after said remote computer is reconnected  
21 with said [remote] associated computer;

22 receiving updates on said remote computer from each of said  
23 at least two local computers;

24 partitioning a memory on said remote computer into a remote  
25 partition that stores said updates from said at least two local  
26 computers; and

27 merging said updates from said at least two local computers  
28 into said remote partition.

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1 ~~8.~~ (newly presented) The method of claim 5 further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 merging selected data updates from said first common  
4 partition to said second common partition.

9

1 ~~10.~~ (newly presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the  
2 step of merging selected first and or second update data from  
3 said first and or second partitions respectively into said first  
4 common partition further comprises:

5 selecting between conflicting data of said first and second  
6 update data in accordance with specified criteria for replacing  
7 said common data in said same data field, in the event that a  
8 first user selected data field and a second user selected data  
9 field are the same data field in said first common partition .

1 11. (newly presented) A storage system for a computer  
2 network simultaneously accessible by at least a first and second  
3 user, comprising:

4 at least one physical storage device,

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5 a common partition defined in said at least one physical  
6 storage device storing common data which is accessible to said  
7 first and second users;

8 a first update partition defined in said at least one  
9 physical storage device storing first update data from said  
10 first user representing changes to said common data in first  
11 user selected data fields in said common partition while  
12 maintaining common data unchanged, said first update data in  
13 said first partition is at least partially inaccessible to said  
14 second user;

15 a second update partition defined in said at least one  
16 physical storage device storing second update data provided by  
17 said second user representing changes to the common data in  
18 second user selected data fields in said common partition while  
19 maintaining common data unchanged, said second update data in  
20 said second partition is at least partially inaccessible to said  
21 first user;

22 means for linking two or more partitions together to form  
23 partition chains; and

24 means for selectively merging said first and second update  
25 data into said common partition at a desired time so as to  
26 replace the common data in said first and second user selected  
27 data fields with said first and second update data.

1 12. (newly presented) The device of claim 11 wherein  
2 said update data and said common data is masked from visibility  
3 by subsequent partitions in said partition chains.

1 13. (newly presented) A method for providing  
2 simultaneous access by at least a first and second user to a  
3 common data file on a computer network comprising at least one  
4 physical storage device, said method including the steps of:

5 defining a first common partition on said at least one  
6 physical storage device accessible to said first and said second  
7 users;

8 defining a first update partition on said at least one  
9 physical storage device, said first update partition accessible  
10 to said first user and at least partially inaccessible to said  
11 second user;

B4 12 forming a first user partition chain by linking said first  
13 common partition and said first update partition;

14 storing first user update data in said first update  
15 partition while maintaining common data unchanged, said first  
16 user update data corresponding to changes to said common data  
17 file by said first user;

18 defining a second update partition on said at least one  
19 physical storage device, said second update partition accessible  
20 to said second user and at least partially inaccessible to said  
21 first user;

22 forming a second user partition chain by linking said first  
23 common partition and said second update partition;

24 storing second user update data in said second update  
25 partition while maintaining common data unchanged, said second

C 26 user update <sup>data</sup> ~~date~~ corresponding to changes to said common data  
27 file by said second user;

B4 28 merging selected first and or second update data from said  
29 first and or second update partitions respectively into said  
30 first common partition.

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